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E. Hump
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Date: January 2, 2003

Del S. Christensen

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PCT application of

Cornelis Antonie Tjeenk Willink et al.

Serial No. 09/869,632

Filed June 28, 2001

Method for removing Condensables from a Natural Gas Stream

Group Art Unit: 3672

Examiner: William P. Neuder

January 2, 2003

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

RESPONSE

The following remarks and amendments are responsive to the Office Action mailed September 20, 2002 in the prosecution of the above-identified US patent application. Reconsideration of this application in light of these remarks and amendments is respectfully requested.

AMENDMENT

In the claims:

Amend claims 1, 2, 4, and 7 as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A method for removing condensables from a natural gas stream upstream of a wellhead connected to a subterranean formation using a downhole inertia separator in which droplets and/or particles are separated from the gases and the gas from which the condensables have been removed is collected, characterized in that the method further comprises the steps of:
- (A) inducing the natural gas stream to flow at supersonic velocity through an inertia separator comprising a conduit having an acceleration section in which the gas stream is accelerated to a supersonic velocity thereby causing the gas stream to cool to a temperature that is below a temperature at which condensables will begin to condense forming separate droplets and/or particles; and